

Prophetic Hadiths:

'Amr ibn Al-'As related Once the Prophet (pbuh) sent me as a leader of an army in which there was Abu Bakr and `Umar as soldiers. When I came back, I asked the Prophet (pbuh) O Allah's Messenger! Who do love most? Why, the Prophet (pbuh) asked. 'Amr said, I would like to know. The Prophet (pbuh) answered, 'Aisha. 'Amr said, I mean from among men. The Prophet (pbuh) said, her father.

[Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

Ibn 'Abbas (may Allah be pleased with them both) related,

Barira's²⁰ husband was a slave called Mughith as if I see him now, going behind Barira and weeping with his tears flowing down his beard. The Prophet (pbuh) said to 'Abbas, O 'Abbas! Are you not astonished at the love of f Mughith for Barira and the hatred of Barira for Mughith!?' Then the Prophet (pbuh) said, Why do not you return to him'? She said, O Allah's Messenger! Do you order me to do so? He said, No, I only intercede for him. She said, I am not in need of him.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

²⁰ Barira was a bondwoman. She got married to Mughith. When she regained her freedom, she was given the choice either to remain a servant with her husband or to separate him. She preferred to free herself from the bondage of slavery.

Blessed Marriage

The Bride's Consent Before Marriage

Prophetic Hadiths:

"A non-virgin should not be given in marriage except after consulting her; and a virgin should not be given in marriage except after her permission. The people asked, O Allah's Messenger! How can we know her permission? He said, Her silence (indicates her permission).

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

Khansa Bint Khaddam al-Ansariyyah reports that her father gave *her* in marriage when she was a non-virgin and she disliked that marriage. So she went to the Prophet (pbuh) and he declared that the marriage invalid."

[Narrated by Al-Bukhari]

Ibn 'Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) reports,

"Once there was a girl who came to the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) complaining. She said, My father has married me off to his nephew to elevate himself". Thereupon, the Prophet (pbuh) gave her the choice. She said", I accept what my father has done. But I wanted that women should know that fathers cannot compel them into marriage.²¹

[Reported by Ibn Majah and Ahmad]

²¹ If Islam gives the woman a free hand to choose her prospective groom, it is better for her not to misuse such freedom. She should be aware when choosing her groom and not to succumb to the luster of this world. She should bear in mind that this worldly life is perishable. Thus, she should prefer the durable to the perishable.